United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

Issue: 09-06 Released: April 8, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS
2009 Prospective Plantings
March 1 Grain Stocks
Ag Prices Received
Quarterly Hogs and Pigs
Weekly Crop-Weather Report Begins

2009 Prospective Plantings

Montana spring wheat producers expect to seed 2.25 million acres in 2009, down 12 percent from last year. Producers expect to plant 540,000 acres of durum wheat this spring, down 8 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings, at 2.5 million acres, are unchanged from the December estimate, but 4 percent below last year. Winter wheat conditions at the end of March 2009 were better than a year ago with conditions rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. The winter wheat acres seeded last fall and the intended acreage for other spring and durum wheat sum to an all wheat planted for the 2009 crop year of 5.3 million acres, down 8 percent from 2008.

Montana barley producers intend to plant an estimated 900,000 acres, up 5 percent from the previous year. The intended seeded acreage for oats is expected to be 75,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from 2008. Corn growers intend to plant 80,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from last year. Acres planted to sugar beets are expected to be 37,500 acres, up 18 percent from 2008. Hay growers are intending to harvest 2.6 million acres, up 8 percent from last year.

The area planted to all dry beans is expected to total 10,700 acres, down 4 percent from last year. All garbanzo beans (chickpeas) area planted is expected to total 3,700 acres, up from 2,600 acres in 2008. Small chickpea acreage is expected to be 1,000 acres, up from 900 acres in 2008. Large chickpea acreage is expected to be 2,700 acres, up from 1,700 acres last year. All dry pea area planted is expected to total 260,000 acres, up from 245,000 acres in 2008. Austrian winter pea area planted is expected to be 10,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Lentil area planted for 2009 is expected to be 125,000 acres, up from 83,000 acres planted in 2008.

Montana canola producers intend to plant 6,000 acres in 2009, down 20 percent from 2008. Flaxseed producers intend to plant 13,000 acres in 2009, up 4,000 acres from last year.

In the United States, all wheat planted area is estimated at 58.6 million acres, down 7 percent from 2008. The 2009 winter wheat planted area, at 42.9 million acres, is 7 percent below last year but up 2 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 30.9 million acres are hard red winter, 8.38 million acres are soft red winter, and 3.65 million acres are white winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2009 is expected to total 13.3 million acres, down 6 percent from 2008. The expected durum planted area for 2009 is 2.45 million acres, down 10 percent from the previous year.

U.S. barley growers intend to plant 3.95 million acres for 2009, down 7 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the third lowest barley planted acreage on record. In North Dakota, the largest barley-producing State, the expected planted area is 1.55 million acres, down 6 percent from 2008. Oat growers intend to plant an estimated 3.40 million acres, up 6 percent from the 3.22 million acres planted in 2008. (Continued on page two)

The Montana 2009 prospective plantings and grain stocks estimates in this issue are the result of surveying approximately 2,600 Montana farmers in March. SPECIAL THANKS to those operators that were interviewed and responded to the survey.

Planted Acreage, 2007-2008 and Intended 2009, Montana and United States

	Montana				United States			
	2007	2008	2009	2009/2008	2007	2008	2009	2009/2008
	Thousand Acres			Percent	Thousand Acres			Percent
All Wheat	5,170.0	5,740.0	5,290.0	92	60,460.0	63,147.0	58,638.0	93
Winter Wheat	2,240.0	2,600.0	2,500.0	96	45,012.0	46,281.0	42,889.0	93
Durum Wheat	480.0	590.0	540.0	92	2,156.0	2,731.0	2,445.0	90
Other Spring Wheat	2,450.0	2,550.0	2,250.0	88	13,292.0	14,135.0	13,304.0	94
Barley	900.0	860.0	900.0	105	4,018.0	4,234.0	3,953.0	93
Oats	75.0	60.0	75.0	125	3,763.0	3,217.0	3,400.0	106
Corn	84.0	78.0	80.0	103	93,527.0	85,982.0	84,986.0	99
Sugar Beets	47.5	31.7	37.5	118	1,268.8	1,090.8	1,151.6	106
All Hay Harvested	2,600.0	2,400.0	2,600.0	108	61,006.0	60,062.0	60,297.0	100
All Dry Beans	18.3	11.2	10.7	96	1,527.4	1,495.0	1,546.1	103
Garbanzo Beans, sm	1.6	0.9	1.0	111	11.1	10.1	27.3	270
Garbanzo Beans, lg	8.2	1.7	2.7	159	114.1	71.8	69.3	97
All Dry Peas	235.0	245.0	260.0	106	847.5	882.5	966.0	109
Austrian Winter Peas	20.0	10.0	10.0	100	29.0	17.5	19.0	109
Lentils	87.0	83.0	125.0	151	303.0	271.0	375.0	138
Canola	8.5	7.5	6.0	80	1,176.0	1,011.0	857.3	85
Flaxseed	21.0	9.0	13.0	144	354.0	354.0	386.0	109

2009 Prospective Plantings (continued from page one)

U.S. corn growers intend to plant 85.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, down 1 percent from last year as lower corn prices and unstable input costs are discouraging some growers from planting corn. If realized, this will be the second consecutive year-over-year decrease since 2007 but will still be the third largest acreage since 1949, behind 2007 and 2008.

Area planted to sugar beets for the 2009 crop year is expected to total 1.15 million acres, 6 percent higher than the 2008 planted acreage. Intended plantings increased from last year in all States except California, where producers intend to plant only 25,000 acres.

Hay producers in the United States intend to harvest 60.3 million acres of all hay in 2009, up slightly from 2008. Harvested area is expected to increase from last year throughout most of the Central Great Plains and the Pacific Northwest.

U.S. dry bean growers intend to plant 1.55 million acres in 2009, up 3 percent from the previous year and 1 percent higher than 2007. The increase in planted acres can be attributed in part to favorably stable dry bean prices. Expected area planted to all chickpeas is 96,600 acres, up 18 percent from 2008 but 23 percent lower than 2007. Small chickpea area, at 27,300 acres, is almost 3 times more acres than last year and 2.5 times more than 2007. Large chickpea acreage is expected to be 3 percent lower than last year and 39 percent less than 2007.

Dry edible peas growers intend to plant 966,000 acres, up 9 percent from 2008 and 14 percent above two years ago. Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington anticipate higher planted acreages this season. Austrian winter peas area planted for the 2009 crop year is expected to total 19,000 acres, up 9 percent from 2008 but 34 percent below two years ago.

Area planted for the 2009 lentil crop year is expected to total 375,000 acres, up 38 percent from 2008 and 24 percent above two years ago. Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota anticipate higher planted acreages this season, while Washington shows no change from a year ago.

Canola producers intend to plant 857,300 acres in 2009, down 15 percent from 2008. Planted area is expected to decrease from last year in Minnesota, Montana, and North Dakota. Producers in North Dakota, the leading canola State, intend to plant 760,000 acres, down 150,000 acres from last year.

Producers intend to plant 386,000 acres of flaxseed in 2009, up 9 percent from both last year and 2007. Planted area is expected to increase or remain unchanged from last year in all States in the estimating program. In North Dakota, the leading flaxseed-producing State, growers intend to plant 360,000 acres in 2009, up 7 percent from 2008.

March 1, 2009 Grain Stocks

All wheat stocks in Montana on March 1, 2009 were 73.5 million bushels, up 71 percent from March 1, 2008. All wheat stocks stored on farms amounted to 54.0 million bushels, up from 23.0 million bushels a year ago. All wheat stored off farms amounted to 19.5 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. All wheat disappearance for the December 2008-February 2009 quarter was down 22 percent from the same quarter last year to 39.9 million bushels, compared with 50.8 million bushels a year ago.

Montana barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2009 were 19.9 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. Barley stored on farms was 8.5 million bushels, up 42 percent from last year. Off-farm barley storage was up 6 percent from a year ago to 11.4 million bushels. All barley disappearance during the December 2008-February 2009 quarter was up 5 percent from the same quarter a year ago to 7.8 million bushels, compared with 7.5 million bushels a year ago. Oat stocks in all positions were estimated at 1.1 million bushels, up 10 percent from last year. On-farm oat stocks were 1.0 million bushels, up 11 percent from 900,000 bushels stored a year ago. Oats stored off-farm were down 8 percent from last year to 55,000 bushels. (Continued on back page)

March 1, 2009 Grain Stocks

GRAIN and POSITION	MONTANA				UNITED STATES		
	Mar. 1, 2008	Dec. 1, 2008	Mar. 1, 2009	'09/'08	Mar. 1, 2008	Dec. 1, 2008	Mar. 1, 2009
	Thousand Bushels			Percent	Thousand Bushels		
ALL WHEAT							
On Farms	23,000	92,000	54,000	235%	91,990	454,000	280,200
Off Farms 1/	20,100	21,360	19,510	97%	617,280	968,374	756,372
TOTAL	43,100	113,360	73,510	171%	709,270	1,422,374	1,036,572
DURUM WHEAT 2/							
On Farms 3/	--	--	--	--	8,100	26,100	18,700
Off Farms 1/, 3/	--	--	--	--	17,058	18,405	14,101
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	25,158	44,505	32,801
BARLEY							
On Farms	6,000	17,000	8,500	142%	28,270	77,050	44,060
Off Farms 1/	10,720	10,720	11,410	106%	82,154	95,766	83,895
TOTAL	16,720	27,720	19,910	119%	110,424	172,816	127,955
OATS							
On Farms	900	1,300	1,000	111%	31,000	42,600	30,000
Off Farms 1/	60	50	55	92%	47,988	72,322	65,364
TOTAL	960	1,350	1,055	110%	78.988	114,922	95,364
CORN							
On Farms	--	--	--	--	3,780,000	6,482,000	4,085,000
Off Farms 1/	--	--	--	--	3,078,722	3,595,564	2,873,397
TOTAL	--	--	--	--	6,858,722	10,077,564	6,958,397

1/ Terminals, mills, interior elevators. 2/ Included in all wheat. 3/ Not published in order to avoid disclosing individual operations.

February 2009 Ag Prices Received

February 2009 full month crop prices were mixed when compared with January 2009. Montana's winter wheat price was $5.90 per bushel, up $0.04 from the previous month, spring wheat prices decreased $0.05 to $7.19 per bushel, durum wheat was down $1.08 to $9.12 per bushel. Feed barley prices decreased $0.22 from the previous month to $2.72 per bushel, but malt barley prices increased $0.27 to $5.93 per bushel.

The mid-March price for alfalfa hay rose $14.00 to $125.00 per ton, but all other hay decreased $9.00 to $94.00 per ton. Mid-March grain prices were mostly lower than the previous month with winter wheat at $5.50 per bushel, spring wheat was $6.84 per bushel, durum wheat was $7.86 per bushel, malt barley was $5.20 per bushel, and feed barley was $3.27 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of February were mostly higher when compared with January 2009. Steer and heifers decreased $1.00 to $92.70 per cwt, cows increased $1.90 to $41.40 per cwt. The price for calves was up $1.00 to $108.00 per cwt. Sheep prices were down $0.50 to $27.70 per cwt, but lamb prices increased $4.00 to $112.00 per cwt. All milk prices decreased $0.60 per cwt from last month to $16.90 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-March were $94.00 per cwt, cows were $42.60 per cwt, beef cattle were $77.00 per cwt, calves were $107.00 per cwt, and all milk prices were $12.00 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for February and changes from January were as follows: winter wheat was $5.26 per bushel, down $0.47, spring wheat was $6.62 per bushel, down $0.41, durum wheat was $7.53 per bushel, down $0.62, the all barley price was $4.94 per bushel, down $0.35, steer and heifers were $83.80 per cwt, down $2.00, cows were $43.90 per cwt, up $1.60, calves were $105.00 per cwt, down $1.00, sheep were $31.90 per cwt, up $0.50, lambs were $100.00 per cwt, down $1.00, and all milk was $11.60, down $1.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-March winter wheat price was $5.27 per bushel, spring wheat was $6.51 per bushel, durum wheat was $7.05 per bushel, all wheat was $5.85 per bushel, malt barley was $5.07 per bushel, feed barley was $2.98 per bushel, and all barley was $4.82 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were $83.50 per cwt, cows were $44.00 per cwt, calves were $104.00 per cwt, and all milk was $11.50 per cwt.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 126 percent, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from February. The Crop Index is up 1 point (0.7 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for corn, lettuce, snap beans, and tomatoes and lower prices for broilers, soybeans, strawberries, and celery. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, broilers, soybeans, and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	February 2008	March 2008	February 2009	March 2009
Prices Received	146	146	126	126
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	171	174	174	174
Ratio 2/	85	84	72	72

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Feb 2008	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Feb 2009	Jan 2009	Feb 2008	15-Mar-09	15-Mar-09
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	7.33	5.86	5.90	5.26	+0.04	-1.43	5.50	5.27
Durum Wheat	Bu	11.20	10.20	9.12	7.53	-1.08	-2.08	7.86	7.05
Spring Wheat	Bu	8.77	7.24	7.19	6.62	-0.05	-1.58	6.84	6.51
All Wheat	Bu	8.08	6.57	6.62	5.79	+0.05	-1.46	6.19	5.85
All Barley	Bu	4.39	5.55	5.56	4.94	+0.01	+1.17	4.99	4.82
Feed Barley	Bu	4.73	2.94	2.72	2.63	-0.22	-2.01	3.27	2.98
Malt Barley	Bu	4.26	5.66	5.93	5.50	+0.27	+1.67	5.20	5.07
Oats	Bu	na	na	na	2.76	0.0	0.0	na	2.11
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	79.00	109.00	111.00	143.00	+2.00	+32.00	125.00	137.00
All Other Hay	Ton	82.00	104.00	103.00	107.00	-1.00	+21.00	94.00	109.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	80.00	108.00	110.00	132.00	+2.00	+30.00	123.00	129.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	102.00	93.70	92.70	83.80	-1.00	-9.30	94.00	83.50
Cows	Cwt	52.70	39.50	41.40	43.90	+1.90	-11.30	42.60	44.00
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	93.60	74.20	79.90	78.80	+5.70	-13.70	77.00	78.50
Calves	Cwt	120.00	107.00	108.00	105.00	+1.00	-12.00	107.00	104.00
Sheep	Cwt	20.80	28.20	27.70	31.90	-0.50	+6.90	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	110.00	108.00	112.00	100.00	+4.00	+2.00	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	21.30	17.50	16.90	11.60	-0.60	-4.40	12.00	11.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

March 1, 2009 Grain Stocks (continued from page two)

In the United States, all wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 1.04 billion bushels, up 46 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 280 million bushels, up 205 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 756 million bushels, are up 23 percent from a year ago. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance is 386 million bushels, down 9 percent from the same period a year earlier.

U.S. durum wheat stocks in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 32.8 million bushels, up 30 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 18.7 million bushels, are up 131 percent from March 1, 2008. Off-farm stocks totaled 14.1 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance of 11.7 million bushels is down 20 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions in the U.S. on March 1, 2009 totaled 128 million bushels, up 16 percent from March 1, 2008. On-farm stocks are estimated at 44.1 million bushels, 56 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 83.9 million bushels, are 2 percent above March 2008. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance totaled 44.9 million bushels, 77 percent above the same period a year earlier.

U.S. oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 95.4 million bushels, 21 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2008. Of the total stocks on hand, 30.0 million bushels are stored on farms, down 3 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 65.4 million bushels, up 36 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2008 - February 2009 totaled 19.6 million bushels, up 27 percent from the same period a year ago.

Corn stocks in all positions in the U.S. on March 1, 2009 totaled 6.96 billion bushels, up 1 percent from March 1, 2008. Of the total stocks, 4.09 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.87 billion bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance is 3.12 billion bushels, compared with 3.42 billion bushels during the same period last year.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 3 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2009 was 65.4 million head. This was down 3 percent from March 1, 2008 and down 2 percent from December 1, 2008.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.4 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2008-February 2009 pig crop, at 28.2 million head, was down 1 percent from 2008 but up 7 percent from 2007. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.98 million head, down 3 percent from 2008 but up 3 percent from 2007. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.48 for the December 2008-February 2009 period, compared to 9.24 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.50 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.96 million sows farrow during the March-May 2009 quarter, down 3 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2008 and down 2 percent from 2007. Intended farrowings for June-August 2009, at 2.95 million sows, are down 4 percent from 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 45 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 40 percent last year.

Weekly Crop-Weather Report Begins

The 2009 growing season is approaching, and we will begin releasing the weekly Crop-Weather Report. This report is one of the most useful reports for producers, agribusinesses, and market analysts. The report provides up-to-date information on crop progress and conditions, soil moisture, and range and pasture feed conditions, as well as weather information.

Weekly publications will resume on April 6, 2009, and will continue through October 26 when the last weekly report will be released. The first monthly report will be issued December 7, and the monthly reports will continue through March 2010.

A couple of options are available for accessing our Crop-Weather Report. Reports are available each release date after 2:00 p.m. on our website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt. Under the heading Montana Publications, select Crop Progress and Condition under the drop-down menu, and hit Go. Here you will be able to select which report you are interested in by the week ending date.

Our reports are also available by email. Our website contains a page for subscribing to our releases so that they are automatically emailed to you. The instructions for subscribing to our releases are as follows:

1. Go to www.nass.usda.gov/mt.
2. On the right side, under the I Want To heading, click on Subscribe to MT reports.
3. Choose the reports you want, holding down the control key to select more than one.
4. Fill in your name and email.
5. Click on the subscribe button.

If you have any questions about the publication or are having problems accessing an electronic version of the report, please call 1-800-835-2612.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Grain Movement	Cattle on Feed
Annual Red Meat Production	February Slaughter
Potato Stocks	Egg Production
Milk Production	

Steve Anderson, Director
John Hilton, Deputy Director
Wendy Bruski, Statistical Info Assistant
10 W 15th Street, Helena, MT 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov